

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S REMARKS - CREDENTIALS CEREMONY

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S REMARKS TO AMBASSADOR ECHEVERRIA OF COSTA RICA DURING ECHEVERRIA'S PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS. REMARKS MAY BE RELEASED BY EMBASSY.

MR. AMBASSADOR:

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO ACCEPT THE LETTER ACCREDITING YOU AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. IT IS A SPECIAL PLEASURE TO BE ABLE TO WELCOME YOU ON THIS PARTICULAR DAY, SINCE THIS AFTERNOON THE COSTA RICAN YOUTH SYMPHONY WILL BE GIVING A CONCERT HERE AT THE WHITE HOUSE. I FEEL CERTAIN THAT THEIR PERFORMANCE HERE WILL BE AN OUTSTANDING TRIBUTE TO THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS WHICH EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES.

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I APPRECIATE YOUR ELOQUENT WORDS IN SUPPORT OF THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE UNITED STATES HAS FOR MANY YEARS RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANT

EXAMPLE SET BY THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA AS A NATION IN WHICH THERE IS A REAL DEMOCRACY, GENUINE RESPECT FOR FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND A HIGH PRIORITY GIVEN TO

PROMOTION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE. YOUR ELECTORAL SYSTEM, WITH A POWERFUL AND INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL, ONCE AGAIN A FEW MONTHS AGO DEMONSTRATED ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN GUARANTEEING THE EXPRESSION OF THE WILL OF YOUR PEOPLE. COSTA RICA'S PERFORMANCE SHOULD BE EXAMINED WITH CARE BY THOSE OF US OUTSIDE YOUR COUNTRY WHO ARE INTERESTED IN IMPROVING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. YOUR WORDS OF SUPPORT FOR THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, COMING AS THEY DO FROM A COUNTRY WHICH CAN SPEAK WITH CONFIDENCE ON THIS SUBJECT, ARE MOST WELCOME, AND THEY SERVE TO STRENGTHEN OUR RESOLVE TO PURSUE WITH YOU THE CAUSE OF HUMAN FREEDOM AND DIGNITY.

MOST RECENTLY, OUR COMMON INTEREST IN RESPECT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC ELECTORAL PROCESS INTERNATIONALLY WAS BROUGHT HOME TO US IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S CONTACTS WITH YOUR PRESIDENT CONCERNING ANOTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRY IN THE HEMISPHERE WHICH IS BUILDING A DEMOCRATIC TRADITION. WE BELIEVE THAT THE CONCERNS VOICED BY OUR GOVERNMENTS, ALONG WITH THOSE EXPRESSED BY OTHER CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS OF THE HEMISPHERE, CONTRIBUTED TO THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN THAT SITUATION. FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT AND WITH OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS SET AN EXAMPLE FOR POSITIVE COOPERATION IN BEHALF OF HUMAN FREEDOM.

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AS WE CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS IN PURSUIT OF INTERNATIONAL RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, THE UNITED STATES IS ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN OUR PATTERN OF CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT. YOUR PRESENCE HERE IN WASHINGTON WILL ALLOW US TO PURSUE THIS COURSE OF ACTION IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY.

MR. AMBASSADOR, I WISH YOU A MOST SUCCESSFUL MISSION HERE IN WASHINGTON. I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING PRESIDENT CARAZO IN PANAMA AND TO OUR FURTHER CONTACTS ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO US ALL. VANCE

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